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" (b) The production of cement in this Province is just sufficient to meet the demands within this Province.

" (c) No cement was imported into this Province during January 1946 to November 1948. The total quantity imported from November to June 1949 is as follows :—

	TONS.	CWT.
November 1948	9,921	4
December 1948 to January 1949	Nil.	Nil.
February 1949	150	..
March 1949	249	18
April 1949	50	..
May 1949	124	19
June 1949	Nil.	Nil.

" (d) No.

" (e) The Government of India are fixing the price of cement on an f.o.r. basis. This Government have nothing to do in the matter.

" (f) The distribution of cement is made by the Honorary Cement Controllers at Madras and at Coimbatore, under the directions of the Director of Controlled Commodities. Detailed methods of distribution and the measures to prevent blackmarketing are provided in the Cement Control Order which has been issued by this Government."

Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao :—" May I know if as stated the production of cement is just sufficient for the consumption of this Province what circumstances prompted this Government to permit the import of cement or whether the import was permitted by the Government of India? "

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" The import of cement was permitted not by this Government but by the Government of India and they permitted because India Cement Company had not come into production and we had not sufficient cement available for this Province."

Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao :—" Now that the India Cement Company has come into production, will this Government, in order to prevent undue competition of cement imported from outside, represent to the Government of India that only on a request from this Government the importation of cement will be permitted? "

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" I do not think the question of import of cement into this Province will arise hereafter; anyhow, we shall make a representation to the Government of India at the proper time."

Sale of imported cement during 1948 *and* 1949.

* 53 *Q.*—Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether during 1948 and 1949 large quantities of cement were imported and if so, what the quantities are;

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(*b*) whether different prices were fixed for imported cement and indigenous cement and if so, what the prices are;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that in order to promote the sale of imported cement, the Government compelled consumers of cement to take certain quantities of imported cement sold at higher rates;

(*d*) whether the Government have received any representations from the consumers regarding the hardships caused by much compulsion;

(*e*) whether the Government have since relaxed the restrictions and if so, what the revised order is;

(*f*) whether the importers obtained the consent of Government before importing cement and also mentioned the possibility of fixing higher price for sale to consumers;

(*g*) what was the necessity for this Government to insist on consumers buying imported cement in certain proportions;

(*h*) whether the Government passed orders insisting on compulsory purchase of imported cement by consumers of their own accord or under instructions from the Government of India;

(*i*) whether this Government sent any representation to the Government of India on the subject;

(*j*) whether the Government will make a full statement on the measures taken to control the price and distribution of cement in the Province; and

(*k*) whether it is proposed to associate an Advisory Committee in the distribution system as in the case of iron and steel?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) No cement was imported into this Province during January 1946 to November 1948.

" The total quantity of cement imported into the Province during November 1948 to June 1949 is as follows :—

	TONS.	CWT.
November 1948	**9,921**	**4**
December 1948 to January 1949	**Nil.**	**Nil.**
February 1949	**150**	..
March 1949	**249**	**18**
April 1449	**50**	..
May 1949	**124**	**19**
June 1949	**Nil.**	**Nil.**

" (*b*) Yes. The price of cement imported from outside India except cement imported from Pakistan should not exceed Rs. 157–8–0 per ton ex-godown at the place of import, inclusive of Rs. 16–8–0 import duty. The price of Pakistan cement, should not exceed Rs. 144 per ton at the place of import. The price of all portland cement produced in India except at Tirunelveli and Travancore is fixed at Rs. 82–8–0 per ton in full wagon loads f.o.r. destinations. The price of the Tirunelveli and Travancore cements has temporarily been

fixed at Rs. 90 per ton in full wagon loads f.o.r. destination for a period of one year from 1st July 1949.

" (c) With a view to relieve the acute shortage of cement in the beginning of November 1948, cement was imported into this Province, under the orders of the Government of India by the Indo-Pakistan Trading Corporation. Subsequently it was reported that a large quantity was forming into lumps and getting spoiled as it could not find a sale. It was therefore originally directed that 50 per cent of the requirements of the public in the Madras City should be supplied with indigenous cement and the balance in imported cement.

" (d) Yes.

" (e) Yes. The order was subsequently modified to the effect that compulsory issue of Pakistan cement should be restricted to big consumers, i.e., those applying for more than 20 tons exempting charitable institutions, colleges, etc., and that all other consumers applying for less than 20 tons might be supplied with indigenous cement only.

" (f) The consent was given by the Government of India who also fixed the price for sale to consumers.

" (g) It was only with a view to avoid the imported cement from being wasted.

" (h) The Government passed orders of their own accord, on the recommendation of the Cement Policy Committee that existed here.

" (i) The general position was explained to Government of India.

" (j) The price is fixed by the Government of India. Regarding distribution, the control order will explain the position.

" (k) No."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, before this Indo-Pakistan Company imported cement into this Province, whether the Government of India had consulted this Government if they would be able to absorb the cement imported by that company which was to be sold at higher prices? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I want notice of the question, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know for what reasons Pakistan cement is allowed to be sold at Rs. 144 whereas the price fixed for similar cement produced in India is Rs. 90? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the Government of India fixed the price of Pakistan cement at a higher level taking into account the transport charges."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether this Government represented to the Government of India that they were not prepared to lay down this rule that consumers of cement should take certain quantities of imported cement sold at a higher

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price, and in order to make up the deficit in this Province that cement manufactured elsewhere which was sold at the same rate throughout this country should be imported into this Province? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Cement manufactured elsewhere was not available for import and, therefore, we had to agree to the import of Pakistan cement at a higher rate."

Officers of the Industries Department deputed for foreign studies.

* 54 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state— 11-15 a.m.

(*a*) the names of officers of the Department of Industries who were deputed for foreign studies and the subjects in which they specialized;

(*b*) whether any or all of them have returned after completing their studies;

(*c*) the posts they were holding before deputation and the posts they are holding after their return from foreign studies;

(*d*) whether there is a proposal to send another batch of officers for studies abroad;

(*e*) whether the officers chosen will be those already chosen but have not proceeded or whether it is proposed to prepare a fresh up-to-date list; and

(*f*) whether any change is proposed in the scheme of foreign studies and if so, what the revised scheme is?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Industries) :—" (*a*) A statement[a] furnishing the information is placed on the table of the House.

" (*b*) All the officers excepting two, viz., Sri Y. Nayudamma and Sri A. N. Raju have returned after completing their studies.

" (*c*) This information is furnished in the statement placed on the table of the House with reference to clause (*a*) of the question.

" (*d*) Yes. But it is not proposed to depute any officer from the Industries Department.

" (*e*) It is proposed to prepare a fresh list. But it is not proposed to select any officer from the Industries Department.

" (*f*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clause (*e*) of the Council Question No. 6 answered on 24th June 1949."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know if the Hydrogenation Factory at Kozhikode is now under process of construction? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 672 infra.